

However, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann discloses, and relates to, "electrical" filters, not "optical" filters. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that filter 56 in FIG. 9 of Hartmann is an electrical filter which filters electric, radio-frequency (RF) signals. Filter 56 is not an optical filter filtering light.

FIG. 1 and column 4, lines 18-29, of Hartmann, show the basic structure of the filters in Hartmann. See also column 3, lines 23-25, of Hartmann. As disclosed in column 4, lines 24-26, of Hartmann, an input signal is applied to lines 18 and 20 by means of "conductor" bars 22 and 24. Here, the term "conductor" implies that bars 18 and 20 are made of a conducting material so that electrical RF signals can travel through the bars.

Further, column 1, line 39, through column 2, line 2, of Hartmann, clearly indicate that the filters of Hartmann are for use in filtering electric signals, such as RF signals. For example, column 1, lines 53-67, clearly indicate that the filters of Hartmann might be used, for example, as an RF tuning filter.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that a review of the overall Hartmann reference makes it clear that Hartmann relates to "electrical" filters, and not "optical" filters.

It is respectfully submitted that the use of electrical filters to filter electric signals is significantly different than the use of optical filters to filter light. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann is non-analogous art to the present invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 16, 17, 23, 24, 60, 61 AND 69-70 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HARTMANN IN VIEW OF TADA (USP 5,994,980)

The comments in Section II, above, for distinguishing over Hartmann, also apply here, where appropriate. To summarize, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann relates to "electrical" filters and not "optical" filters, and is thereby non-analogous art to the present invention.

Tada is similar to Hartmann, in that Tada relates to "electrical" filters, not "optical" filters.

For example, as indicated in column 6, lines 46-49, of Tada, an "RF signal" is input to the filter. An RF signal is an electrical signal, not an optical signal. Column 6, line 1, through column 7, line 18, describe the operation of the filter in Tada, and indicate that the filter is an

"electrical" filter, not an "optical" filter. See also column 1, lines 20-23, of Toda, indicated that the filter of Toda relates to the filtering of RF signals.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that a review of the overall Toda reference makes it clear that Toda relates to "electrical" filters, and not "optical" filters.

It is respectfully submitted that the use of electrical filters to filter electric signals is significantly different than the use of optical filters to filter light. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Toda is non-analogous art to the present invention.

In accordance with the above, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann and Toda should not be combined to reject the claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 25-32, 71-73, 74-77 AND 81-85 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HARTMANN IN VIEW OF O'DONNEL (WO/97/10658)

The comments in Sections II and III, above, for distinguishing over Hartmann and Toda, also apply here, where appropriate. To summarize, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann and Toda relate to "electrical" filters and not "optical" filters, and are thereby non-analogous art to the present invention.

FIGS. 4 and 5 of O'Donnel show two different optical filters connected together. Oscillators 33, 34 and 40 are used to provide RF control signals for controlling the optical filters.

However, O'Donnel does not disclose the relationships of the RF control signals of the various oscillators.

Moreover, O'Donnel should not be combined with Hartmann, since Hartmann relates to "electrical" filters, whereas O'Donnel relates to "optical" filters. Therefore, Hartmann and O'Donnel are non-analogous art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 33-34 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HARTMANN IN VIEW OF O'DONNEL AND TADA

The comments in Sections II, III and IV, above, for distinguishing over Hartmann,

O'Donnel and Tada, also apply here, where appropriate. To summarize, it is respectfully submitted that Hartmann and Toda relate to "electrical" filters and not "optical" filters, and are thereby non-analogous art to the present invention.

FIGS. 4 and 5 of O'Donnel show two different optical filters connected together. Oscillators 33, 34 and 40 are used to provide RF control signals for controlling the optical filters.

However, O'Donnel does not disclose the relationships of the RF control signals of the various oscillators.

Further, the Examiner combines the reflector of Hartmann and Tada with O'Donnel.

However, O'Donnel should not be combined with either Hartmann or Toda, since Hartmann and Toda relate to "electrical" filters, whereas O'Donnel relates to "optical" filters. Therefore, Hartmann and Toda are non-analogous art to O'Donnel.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. UNACKNOWLEDGED IDSs

An IDS was filed February 11, 1999. However, the Examiner has not yet acknowledged the IDS. A copy of the IDS, along with a PTO mailroom stamped filing receipt for the IDS, is enclosed herewith.

An additional IDS was filed on August 9, 1999. However, the Examiner has not yet acknowledged the IDS. A copy of the IDS, along with a PTO mailroom stamped filing receipt for the IDS, is enclosed herewith.

A further IDS was filed on March 23, 2001. However, the Examiner has not yet acknowledged the IDS. A copy of the IDS, along with a PTO mailroom stamped filing receipt for the IDS, is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge each of the above IDSs, by initialing each reference on the respective Form PTO-1449s.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for

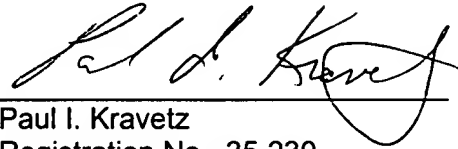
allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Applicant(s):	Applicant(s):	Tadao NAKAZAWA et al
Title:	Title:	ACOUSTO-OPTICAL TUNABLE FILTERS CASCADED TOGETHER
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Filing Date:	Filing Date:	February 11, 1999
Docket No.:	Docket No.:	614.1921/PIK
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